

AO 399 (01/09) Waiver of the Service of Summons

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
for the  
Southern District of West Virginia

BETH COPSON \_\_\_\_\_ )  
Plaintiff \_\_\_\_\_ )  
v. \_\_\_\_\_ ) Civil Action No. 1:19-00127  
Patrick M. Hephner et al. \_\_\_\_\_ )  
Defendant \_\_\_\_\_ )

**WAIVER OF THE SERVICE OF SUMMONS**

To: Russell A. Williams, Esq.  
(Name of the plaintiff's attorney or unrepresented plaintiff)

I have received your request to waive service of a summons in this action along with a copy of the complaint, two copies of this waiver form, and a prepaid means of returning one signed copy of the form to you.

I, or the entity I represent, agree to save the expense of serving a summons and complaint in this case.

I understand that I, or the entity I represent, will keep all defenses or objections to the lawsuit, the court's jurisdiction, and the venue of the action, but that I waive any objections to the absence of a summons or of service.

I also understand that I, or the entity I represent, must file and serve an answer or a motion under Rule 12 within 60 days from 05/10/2019, the date when this request was sent (or 90 days if it was sent outside the United States). If I fail to do so, a default judgment will be entered against me or the entity I represent.

Date: 05/10/2019

Patrick M. Hephner  
Printed name of party waiving service of summons



Signature of the attorney or unrepresented party

Michael D. Mullins, Esq.  
Printed name

P.O. Box 1588, Charleston, WV 25326  
Address  
michael.mullins@steptoe-johnson.com  
E-mail address  
304-353-8000  
Telephone number

**Duty to Avoid Unnecessary Expenses of Serving a Summons**

Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires certain defendants to cooperate in saving unnecessary expenses of serving a summons and complaint. A defendant who is located in the United States and who fails to return a signed waiver of service requested by a plaintiff located in the United States will be required to pay the expenses of service, unless the defendant shows good cause for the failure.

"Good cause" does *not* include a belief that the lawsuit is groundless, or that it has been brought in an improper venue, or that the court has no jurisdiction over this matter or over the defendant or the defendant's property.

If the waiver is signed and returned, you can still make these and all other defenses and objections, but you cannot object to the absence of a summons or of service.

If you waive service, then you must, within the time specified on the waiver form, serve an answer or a motion under Rule 12 on the plaintiff and file a copy with the court. By signing and returning the waiver form, you are allowed more time to respond than if a summons had been served.